

## **District Judge Richard D. Bennett**

District Judge Richard D. Bennett was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1947. Judge Bennett received a B.A. Degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1969. After a period of active duty with the United States Army, he achieved his J.D. in 1973 from the University of Maryland School of Law, where he served as a Member of the Maryland Law Review.

Following law school, Judge Bennett entered the Baltimore law firm of Smith, Somerville & Case. In 1976 he was appointed as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for Maryland and remained in that position until 1981 when he returned to private practice.

In 1991 Judge Bennett was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the United States Attorney for the District of Maryland. In that position he received the Outstanding Service Award from the Maryland State's Attorneys Association and the award from the Governor of Maryland for outstanding contributions in the field of victim rights.

In 1993 Judge Bennett returned to private practice as a partner at the law firm of Miles and Stockbridge, where he headed that firm's white collar criminal defense and government investigations practice. In 2002, he was recognized by a respected national publication as one of the "Best Lawyers in America." During his tenure with the firm, Judge Bennett was also retained by the U.S. House of Representatives as Special Counsel to an investigation of foreign campaign contributions. In addition to his active federal trial practice, he was the 1994 Republican candidate for Attorney General of Maryland and the 1998 Republican candidate for Lt. Governor.

On January 29, 2003, Judge Bennett was nominated by President George W. Bush to a vacant seat on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. With the strong support of U.S. Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, his nomination was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate and he received his commission on April 10, 2003.

Judge Bennett served over 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and Maryland National Guard, and is a Major in the Retired Reserve. He received the Maryland Commendation Medal for Outstanding Service, the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross for Service Beyond the Call of Duty and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Judge Bennett is a member of the American Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, and a life member of the Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and

the Maryland Bar Foundation and a member of numerous law clubs and legal societies. On October 1, 2009, Judge Bennett was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. to serve on the International Judicial Relations Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference. In connection with that appointment he has represented the U.S. Judiciary in exchange programs in Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Bulgaria and Turkey.

He served on the Board of Trustees of Severn School from 1993 to 2002, and in 2003 received the school's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy-Krieger Institute for Disabled Children and on the Board of Visitors of the University of Maryland School of Law.